



---

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Tuesday 18 December 2012

### **FUNDING BOOST FOR REGIONAL EVENTS**

The Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, today announced the successful regional events that have received grants under the 2013 round of the NSW Regional Flagship Events program.

The program provides one year grants of \$10,000 and three year grants totalling \$60,000 to support the marketing and advertising of important events and festivals.

“These events showcase NSW’s regional areas in a unique way and encourage interstate and international visitors to explore wonderful tourist destinations across the State,” Mr Souris said.

“Major events and festivals such as Casino Beef Week, Peats Ridge Festival and Snowy Mountains of Music Festival also create local jobs and boost regional economies”.

“Tourism is vital to regional areas and the NSW Government through Destination NSW is committed to supporting development programs which will help us to achieve the goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure to the State by 2020,” Mr Souris said.

“More than 18 million regional overnight visitors contributed over \$9 billion to the NSW economy in the 12 months to September 2012.”

Mr Souris said that the Regional Flagship Events program supports high quality events through a competitive grant process. The 2013 round of funding generated 109 Expressions of Interest, from which 64 events were invited to submit a detailed application.

Details of the 37 grant recipients can be found in the table below.

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>2013 Event Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Funding Duration</b>
5 Lands Walk	22 June	Gosford	Gosford	1 year
Australain Longboard Surfing Championship Open	20-24 March	Kingscliff	Tweed	1 year
Bathurst Autofest	16-17 March	Bathurst	Bathurst	1 year
Byron Bay International Film Festival	22-23 March	Byron Bay	Ballina	3 years*
Canowindra Balloon Challenge	20-27 April	Canowindra	Dubbo	1 year
Casino Beef Week	18-28 May	Casino	Clarence	1 year
Chromefest	25-27 October	The Entrance	The Entrance	3 years
CoastOut Festival	Last weekend in October	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour	1 year
Coonamble Rodeo & Campdraft	June long Weekend	Coonamble	Barwon	3 years
Eden Whale Festival	1-3 November	Eden	Bega	3 years
Fireside Festival the Poachers Way	August	Yass Valley	Monaro	3 years*
Hilltops Annual Wine Dinner	23 August	Hilltops	Burrinjuck	1 year
Hunter Valley Food and Wine Month	June	Hunter Valley	Cessnock	3 years
Junee Rhythm n Rail Festival	2-3 March	Junee	Murrumbidgee	1 year
Katoomba Winter Magic Festival	22 June	Katoomba	Blue Mountains	1 year
King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge and Bush Festival	3-5 May	Murrurundi	Upper Hunter	1 year
Lithgow Flash Gift	23 February	Lithgow	Bathurst	1 year
Murrumbateman Moving Feast	4-7 October	Murrumbateman	Burrinjuck	1 year
nab B2B Cyclo Sportif Challenge	20-21 April	Bathurst to Blayney	Bathurst	1 year
Narooma Oyster Festival	4-5 May	Narooma	Bega	1 year
Opera at The Channon	28 July	Lismore	Lismore	1 year
Orange Wine Week	18-27 October	Orange	Orange	1 year
Peats Ridge Festival	29 December - 1 January 2014	Glenworth Valley	Gosford	1 year
Sample Food Festival Northern NSW	5-6 October	Bangalow	Ballina	1 year
Sawtell Chilli Festival	6 July	Sawtell	Coffs Harbour	1 year
Sculptures in the Vineyards	2-30 November	Wollombi	Upper Hunter	1 year
Shoalhaven Coast Winter Wine Festival	8-10 June	Shoalhaven	Kiama	1 year

Snowy Mountains of Music Festival	7-10 June	Perisher	Monaro	1 year
Southern 80	8-10 February	Moama	Murray-Darling	1 year
Spirit of the Land Lockhart Festival	12-13 October	Lockhart	Wagga Wagga	1 year
Tastes at the Bay	1-3 November	Port Stephens	Port Stephens	1 year
The Mullum Music Festival	21-24 November	Mullumbimby	Ballina	1 year
The Riverboats of Music Festival	15-17 February	Echuca-Moama	Murray-Darling	1 year
The Wingham Akoostik Music Festival	18-20 October	Wingham	Myall Lakes	1 year
Tumbafest	23-24 February	Tumbarumba	Albury	3 years*
Warbirds Downunder 2013 Airshow	1 November	Temora	Murrumbidgee	1 year
WUPA@Wanaruah	September - October	Broke/Pokolbin	Upper Hunter	1 year

\*in the second year of a three year commitment.